



A group of orphans and vulnerable children who have been supported by MWENDO. Photo credit: Florence Ogola/MWENDO

KENYA

MAKING WELL-INFORMED EFFORTS TO NURTURE DISADVANTAGED ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

There are an estimated 2.6 million orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Kenya, of whom 650,000 are orphaned by AIDS. It is estimated that over 1 million households care for an orphan. Without a coordinated multi-sectoral response, OVC are at risk of not knowing their HIV status, not adhering to HIV treatment, facing economic vulnerability due to caregiver illness and/or death, and living in a child-headed household – a situation that puts them at greater risk of school dropouts, early marriage, risky behaviors, and HIV infection.

Making Well-Informed Efforts to Nurture Disadvantaged Orphans and Vulnerable Children (MWENDO) is a USAID-funded project that targets 432,850 OVC in 181,031 households across 17 counties. It focuses on improving the well-being of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV by increasing their access to health and social services; strengthening the capacities of households and communities to protect and care for OVC; and strengthening child welfare and protection structures and systems.

OUR WORK

MWENDO takes a holistic, child-focused, family-centered, and community-based approach that ensures the child's well-being is nested within the household's well-being. MWENDO supports Kenya in reaching the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets by strengthening the HIV and social support system from the household to the national level, as well as across systems and sectors – with a specific focus on protection, household economic strengthening, health and HIV, and the intersections between them. MWENDO emphasizes capacity strengthening for community-level social service providers and sustainability planning to create long-term positive change in the targeted counties.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2017, MWENDO has achieved the following results:

- 51,060 children and adolescents Living with HIV enrolled and supported.
- 87 percent of children/adolescents living with HIV who were enrolled in the project achieved viral load suppression.
- 2,965 staff members from 152 health facilities sensitized on child protection and HIV linkages.
- 9,095 caregivers supported with business grants to initiate income-generating activities.
- 6,780 households with 9,500 orphans and vulnerable children graduated from the project upon achieving their case plans.
- 5,511 households supporting 201,330 OVC are participating in saving groups that promote the saving culture and acquiring loans for investments, thus strengthening OVC care.
- More than USD \$3 million mobilized by 5,511 caregivers participating in saving groups.
- 50,637 caregivers of adolescents aged 9-17 are in parenting groups, with 22,321 completing parenting sessions.
- 10,774 adolescent girls from five counties supported through the DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) partnership.
- Supported 13 counties with drafting child welfare and protection policies.
- 24,434 caregivers reached with targeted messages on child protection and COVID-19 preventive measures through Ujumbe SMS, also known as the mHealth platform.

BUDGET: USD \$72 million

DURATION

2017-2021

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Bungoma, Busia, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kilifi, Kisii, Kisumu, Kwale, Migori, Nandi, Nairobi, Nyamira, Siaya, Trans Nzoia, Taita Taveta, Vihiga and Mombasa Counties

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Catholic Relief Services

KEY PARTNERS

Department of Children Services, National and County Governments (line ministries), Maestral International, Innovations Kenya, Clowns Without Borders (South Africa), Picture Impact, ICAP, Kenya AIDS Response Program, International Potato Center, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and other USAID programs such as AMPATH, Afya Ziwani, Afya Pwani, Afya Jijini, and the Feed the Future Kenya Crops and Dairy Market Systems Activity

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